

CONGRESS ON ROAD TO
BALANCING BUDGET

HON. RANDY TATE

OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, February 21, 1995

Mr. TATE. Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of each month, my wife and I sit down together and balance our family budget. Balancing a budget is something that all American businesses and families must do. It's time Congress follows the lead of its citizens.

Congress has the ability to balance the budget. It simply hasn't had the will. Only once in the last 30 years has the Federal Government had the backbone to balance the budget.

The tax limitation balanced budget amendment, introduced by Representative JOE BARTON, Republican from Texas, House Judiciary Committee Chairman HENRY HYDE, Republican from Illinois, and me, is exactly the tool needed. The tax limitation balanced budget amendment is the change in the way Government does business that the American people have demanded.

Our balanced budget amendment requires a three-fifths majority vote to raise taxes, borrow money, or add to the deficit.

If a three-fifths vote had been required during the 103d Congress, the Clinton budget, which contained one of the largest tax increases in history, would not have passed. Instead, it passed by 1 vote leaving another Congress that took more of your money and still didn't balance the budget.

On the historic first day of the 104th Congress, the House overwhelmingly passed a rule that requires a three-fifths majority vote to increase income tax rates. We need that same strong, bipartisan support in order to pass this needed constitutional amendment.

If we are sincere about shrinking the size and scope of our Federal Government, as the people asked us to do last November, then we must pass the tax limitation balanced budget amendment.

The national debt is over \$4.5 trillion. Your share exceeds \$13,000. To save future generations, this reckless accumulation of debt must stop.

The tax limitation balanced budget amendment is not a quick fix to our financial problems. Instead, it is a bold and needed measure that will restore fiscal sanity and discipline to a free-spending Congress.

This is the highest priority of the new Republican House majority. We must make it harder for Congress to dip into your wallet, not easier. By requiring a three-fifths majority vote, Congress will be forced to cut spending before reaching into your pockets and raising your taxes first.

There are cries from some who say that a constitutional amendment is not needed—that fiscal discipline alone can balance our budget. Wrong.

The tired policies of the past have failed before and will fail again. It is time to make Congress accountable to the people we serve.

There is nothing terrible about asking the Federal Government to live within its means. But there are some that are still opposed to fiscal responsibility and reduced spending. Sunday, Secretary of Labor Robert Reich said on "Meet the Press" that the President is "against simply balancing the budget," and

that the goal of a balanced budget was not his goal. Even after the voters have demanded spending cuts and fiscal responsibility, the Clinton administration seems content to spend more money it doesn't have—a luxury that American families can't afford.

Americans are demanding that we shrink Government and act responsibly. Many are shocked to see opposition to such a common-sense solution as our amendment. We will fight against those special interests that insist on the status quo.

If 49 States can operate under balanced budget requirements, so can Congress.

The answer to our Nation's problems is not spending more money and raising taxes. The answer is a tax limitation balanced budget amendment that will force Congress to make the same tough choices you and your family make every day.

SERVICE WITH A SMILE

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, February 21, 1995

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, Mayor Charlene Beyer of Round Lake Park, IL, exemplifies the many qualities which all Americans today should strive to attain. Mrs. Beyer embodies a sound work ethic, profamily values, and she is an upstanding citizen as well as a fellow public servant.

I commend to the attention of my colleagues the following article entitled, "Service With a Smile," found in the January 8, 1995, issue of the Chicago Tribune. May we all adopt and practice these superior values in the hopes of setting the appropriate pattern for future generations in America and our Government.

[From the Chicago Tribune, Jan. 8, 1995]
SERVICE WITH A SMILE—MEET CHARLENE BEYER, WAITRESS AND MAYOR OF ROUND LAKE PARK

(By Lauren May)

Round Lake Park Mayor Charlene Beyer has been serving her community for about a year and a half, but she's been serving customers at Mers restaurant in Wauconda longer than that.

To supplement her mayoral income which averages out to be about 50 cents an hour, Beyer waits tables every weekend at the family eatery.

To Beyer, 37, mother of five, it's a living. "I wake up with a bad back like every other waitress does," Beyer said. "To me, it's my life. I don't think it's an easy one, but I know that that's the life I'm living, and I would work five nights if I had to to get my kids where they need to go. And that's basically what I'll have to do."

Beyer said waiting tables is probably the best way to earn some extra cash in a short period of time.

"I can make on the weekends what girls in an office make in a whole week," she explained. "I can't take 40 hours out of my week and go work for something I can do in two nights."

Time constraints dictate the type of second job Beyer can have, because she home-schools three of her children. About six to eight hours of each weekday is devoted to her three youngest children, ages 8, 10 and 12. She also has a 16-year-old in high school and a 15-year-old who attends a performing-arts school in Michigan.

Most nights during the week she is off to a board meeting, and on some weekend days

she attends village events, so her mayoral duties can occupy from 15 to 30 hours of her time each week. She also is the Avon Township chairwoman of the Republican Party.

Beyer said she thinks most people in her village do not know about her moonlighting job as a waitress, but regular patrons of the Wauconda landmark on the shores of Bangs Lake know her well.

"I think she's a wonderful lady," said Rep. Al Salvi (R-Wauconda), whose office is just down the street from the restaurant. "She is a real genuine person."

Like many of the restaurant's "regulars," Salvi said he often requests Beyer to be his waitress. He said the job gives her the opportunity to mingle with people, including local politicians who frequent the establishment. But most of all, Salvi said, it proves that she is just a regular person.

"She's one of us," he said. "She's the kind of mayor every village should have."

Round Lake Park Village Board member June Bessert sees Beyer's dual jobs as "proof that you can hold a higher office no matter what your calling in life is. I really see nothing wrong in that; it's an honest way of earning a living. She's very intelligent."

And according to her boss, Beyer is the kind of mayor every restaurant should have.

"She's good PR for us," Rosemary Mers said, "We like telling everybody that the mayor will 'wait on you tonight.'"

Customers at first don't always believe that the mayor of a nearby town is serving them dinner. "At first they think we're teasing," Mers said. "They're flattered."

Mers hired Beyer about five years ago, before Beyer had any aspirations of becoming Round Lake Park mayor. After she was elected, Mers said she was not surprised when Beyer told her she wanted to keep her waitressing position.

"A long time ago, that's how government was," Beyer said. "It wasn't the attorneys and the professional people that were doing it; it was just the common people that went in and made a difference."

Although heading a town with a population of about 4,500 and serving steak and lobster to restaurant patrons may seem to be on opposite ends of the employment spectrum, Beyer contends that there are few differences between her dual occupations.

"I feel [they're] very similar," she said, listing their likenesses. "The customer is always right. You're there to serve them. The demands are many. They want, as most people want now, instant solutions to the problems that they have."

And, in fact, the frustration of not getting any answers herself as a new resident of Round Lake Park ultimately drove Beyer to seek office. She served as a trustee from 1989 to 1991 and was elected mayor in 1993, taking office in April, she said.

"I just wanted to be listened to," Beyer said. "So I guess you can say that I was frustrated and decided that my frustration would be turned into determination. When I look at something and get frustrated, I don't turn around and walk away."

That determination to make a difference had been passed on to Beyer not only by her family, which also has roots in politics, but also by her first boss.

At age 15, Beyer worked as a carhop at Dog 'n Suds in Wauconda, where she grew up. The owner of the drive-up restaurant was—not surprisingly—the then-mayor of Wauconda, Ken Potter.

"He, along with others, had at an early age been instilling in me ideas and the concepts of government," Beyer said. "So I worked on my first campaign when I was 15 years old to elect him to be mayor."